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NSC BRIEFING

13 May 1954

USAF review(s) completed.

NEW SOVIET BOMBERS

1. Preliminary Air Force evaluations of new Soviet bombers indicate the following:

A. The Type 37 is a swept-wing, four-engine, heavy jet bomber--considered to be a Tupolev design.

1. Size: fuselage, approximately 155 feet long; wing span, approximately 170 feet; estimated gross weight of 300,000 pounds--aircraft considerably larger than previously estimated. Each engine is estimated at 15,000 pounds sea-level static thrust.

Performance characteristics previously estimated for the heavy jet bombers estimated to be in operational units in 1957

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appear to be adequate.

4. Bomb bay large enough for one 11,000 pound general purpose or one conventional atomic bomb.
5. The aircraft appears to have considerable electronic equipment.

B. The Type 39 is similar in configuration to the Type 37 but is probably an Ilyushin design.

1. Same size-class as B-47.
2. Engines probably same as those in Type 37.
3. Electronic equipment on Type 39 appears similar to that on Type 37.
4. No indication of bomb bay length or capacity.

II. Data on comparable US types:

A. US B-52:

1. Size: Fuselage length--156.5 feet, wing span--185 feet, normal gross

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weight--390,000.

2. Engines: eight J-57 axial flow turbo jets with sea level static thrust of 8,250 pounds each.
3. Maximum bomb load of 50,000 pounds.
4. Combat radius--3160 nautical miles.

B. US B-47:

1. Size: length--106.8 feet, a wing span--116 feet, normal gross weight--125,000 pounds.
2. Engines: six J-47 axial flow turbo jets with sea level static thrust rating of 5270 pounds each.
3. Can carry one 22,000 pound general purpose bomb or one 10,000 pound special weapon.
4. Combat radius--10,000 pound bomb load--1635 nautical miles.

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